

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION**Charges for Certain Disclosures****AGENCY:** Federal Trade Commission.**ACTION:** Notice Regarding Charges for Certain Disclosures.

SUMMARY: The Federal Trade Commission announces that the current ceiling on allowable charges under section 612(a) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act ("FCRA") will increase from \$8.00 to \$8.50 on January 1, 2000. Under 1996 amendments to the FCRA, the Federal Trade Commission is required to increase the \$8.00 amount referred to in paragraph (1)(a)(i) of section 612(a) on January 1 of each year, based proportionally on changes in the Consumer Price Index ("CPI"), with fractional changes rounded to the nearest fifty cents. The CPI increased 4.16 percent between September 1997, the date the FCRA amendments took effect, and September 1999. This increase in the CPI and the requirement that any increase be rounded to the nearest fifty cents results in an increase in the maximum allowable charge to \$8.50.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2000.**ADDRESSES:** Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580.**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Keith B. Anderson, Bureau of Economics, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580, 202-326-3428.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 612(a)(1)(A) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act, as amended in 1996, states that, where a consumer reporting agency is permitted to impose a reasonable charge on a consumer for making a disclosure to the consumer pursuant to section 609, the charge shall not exceed \$8 and shall be indicated to the consumer before making the disclosure. Section 612(a)(2) goes on to state that the Federal Trade Commission ("the Commission") shall increase the \$8.00 maximum amount on January 1 of each year, based proportionally on changes in the Consumer Price Index, with fractional changes rounded to the nearest fifty cents.

The Commission considers the \$8 amount referred to in paragraph (1)(A)(i) of section 612(a) to be the baseline for the effective ceiling on reasonable charges dating from the effective date of the amended FCRA, i.e., September 30, 1997. In November of each year, the Commission calculates the proportional increase in the Consumer Price Index (using the most general CPI, which is for all urban consumers, all items) from September 1997 to September of the

current year. The Commission then determines what modification, if any, from the original base of \$8 should be made effective on January 1 of each subsequent year, given the requirement that fractional changes be rounded to the nearest fifty cents.

Between September 1997 and September 1999, the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers and all items increased by 4.16 percent—from an index value of 161.2 in September 1997 to a value of 167.9 in September 1999. An increase of 4.16 percent in the \$8.00 base figure would lead to a new figure of \$8.33. However, because the statute directs that the resulting figure be rounded to the nearest \$0.50, the allowable charge should be increased to \$8.50.

The Commission therefore determines that the allowable charge for the year 2000 will be \$8.50.

By direction of the Commission.

Donald S. Clark,*Secretary.*

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BILLING CODE 6750-01-M**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES****Centers for Disease Control and Prevention****[Program Announcement 00028]****Cooperative Agreement Program to Increase Knowledge and Skills of Under-Represented Minority Students in the Areas of Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Occupational Safety and Health; Notice of Availability of Funds****A. Purpose**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announces the availability of fiscal year (FY) 2000 funds for a cooperative agreement program to increase knowledge, skills and research training of under-represented minority students in the areas of biostatistics, epidemiology and occupational health and safety. For the purposes of this agreement, under-represented minority students are African American/Black American, Hispanic/Latino, or American Indian/Alaska Native students. This program addresses the "Healthy People 2000" priority area of Educational and Community-based Programs, Clinical Preventive Services, and Surveillance and Data (Objective 21.8), which proposes to increase the proportion of all persons with degrees in health professions, including allied and

associated health fields, and the number of degrees awarded to members of under-represented racial and ethnic minority groups. In addition, the program addresses the performance of executive agency actions under Executive Order 12876, to advance the development of human potential, to strengthen the capacity of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), to provide quality education, and to increase opportunities to participate in and benefit from Federal programs.

The purpose of the program is to provide under-represented minority undergraduate students with training in two categories of specialization: Category I—biostatistics and epidemiology in Atlanta, GA, and Category II—occupational safety and health in Cincinnati, OH, Morgantown, WV, Pittsburgh, PA and Spokane, WA. Specifically, the program is intended to assist an HBCU to:

(1) Develop an undergraduate research training and internship program for African American and other under-represented minority students.

(2) Increase the knowledge and skills of African American and other under-represented undergraduate minority students in both categories of specialization, (i.e., epidemiology, biostatistics and occupational safety and health);

(3) Expand the educational and applied public health research training and skills development opportunities and experiences in the two fields of specialization (epidemiology, biostatistics, and occupational safety and health) for under-represented minority students who are interested in pursuing public health careers;

(4) Develop and implement a public health science curriculum at an HBCU,

(5) Foster linkages and collaboration among students and faculty in developing epidemiological and analytical knowledge bases for the health status of minority and under-served populations in America;

(6) Increase the number of African Americans and other under-represented minority populations with advanced degrees in epidemiology, biostatistics, and occupational safety and health.

B. Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants are institutions of higher education that are designated as HBCUs. Only HBCUs which meet the following criteria are eligible to apply under this announcement: (1) have a predominantly black and other minority student enrollment of at least 51 percent, and (2) offer undergraduate courses in community/allied health,